News Review of Current Events the World Over

Japanese Rebels Slay Four Statesmen and Dictatorship Is Rumored—Hagood's Removal Starts a Row—Vandenberg Won't Enter the Ohio Primary.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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MILITARISTS of Japan, led by a group of young army officers who were impatient with the government's policy of economy and restraint in the matter of advances in China and Mongolia, suddenly staged a revolt in Tokyo with the avowed purpose of eliminating liberal statesmen whom they considered obstacles to the restoration of a military dictatorship under imperial rule. Seizing certain government buildings in the capital, they rushed to the homes of the listed statesmen and succeeded in assassinating four—Premier Admiral Keisuke Okada; Admiral Viscount Makoto, former premier and lord keeper of the privy seal; Gen. Jotaro Watanabe, chief of military education, and Koreyiko Takahashi, finance minister. Several others were wounded, and servants of all of them were killed.

Emperor Hirohito immediately took charge of the situation, called a council of state and made Fumio Goto temporary premier. Martial law was proclaimed in Tokyo and the loyal army forces, largely outnumbering the rebels, surrounded the latter in the buildings they had taken. Meanwhile the second fleet, also loyal, moved up to the mouth of Tokyo bay, its guns dominating the city.

During the first day of the uprising an agreement was reached that the rebel troops should return to their barracks, but this they refused to do. Then the censorship, temporarily raised, was clamped down again. Diplomatic quarters in Shanghai received a report that Gen. Sadao Araki, former minister of war, had established a military dictatorship. He has been the most chauvinistic of all Japan's high army officers.

Political observers in Tokyo believed that the emperor's advisers would urge the right wing elements to be given a chance to form a cabinet, to see whether they would be able to control the government.

Even liberal political sources shared this belief, asserting that such an experiment would produce a strong public reaction to the left, permitting early restoration of normal government.

SENATE and house conferees patched up the new farm bill, substitute for the invalidated AAA, both houses accepted the revised measure and it was sent to the White House. Senator Borah argued in vain early today against the so-called "consumers'" amendment which authorizes the "re-establishment, at as early a date as the secretary of agriculture determines to be practicable and in the general interest, of parity of the ratio between the purchasing power of the net income per person on farms and the income per person not on farms that prevailed during the five-year period August, 1909, to July, 1914."

Speaking for the extraordinary delegation of power to the secretary of agriculture, Senator Borah said: "We are now asked to confer upon him a task which would require the wisdom of a god. It is nothing on the face of it an absurdity.

"This idea that even by divine power you can go out and equalize the purchasing power of the consumer and equalize the purchasing power of the laborer, when above them both is a power which is fixing a rule under which they live, is to me inconceivable."

ON THE ground that the seed loan act requirements of farmers can be met from relief funds on hand, President Roosevelt vetoed the $50,000,000 crop production loan bill passed by congress. In his message he called attention to his budget message urging that congress provide additional taxes if it enacted legislation imposing charges not covered in the budget. He said he expected, last year, that such loans as the seed loan would be tapered off. He realizes they still are necessary but added:

"I am fully convinced that the immediate and actual need to which I have referred can be met during the year 1936 by an expenditure of funds materially less than that proposed in the bill under discussion."

SUMMARY removal of Maj. Gen. Johnson Hagood from his command of the Eighth Corps area because of his critical expressions concerning the WPA and other New Deal activities stirred up a pretty row in Washington. Gen. Malin Craig, chief of staff, signed the order to Hagood, by order of the secretary of war and the President. The Republicans in congress, backed up by Tom Blanton of Texas and some other Democrats, assailed the action vigorously, and Senator Metcalf of Rhode Island introduced a resolution for an inquiry into the incident on behalf of "free speech."

Brewing its "usual rule of silence," the War department made public a letter from General Craig to Secretary Dern, declaring Hagood's record was "marked by repeated examples of lack of self-control, irresponsible and intemperate statements."

Hagood had told a house subcommittee that it was "almost impossible" to get WPA's "stage money" for "anything worthwhile." These remarks, said Craig, "can only be characterized as flippant in tone and entirely unjustified for and designed to bring ridicule and contempt upon civil agencies of the government."

Accusing him of "thinly veiled" opposition and "contempt" toward WPA director Colonel Harrington, the letter pointed out as "contemptuous" Hagood's references to CCC activities as "hobbies," "collecting postage stamps" and "taking an interest in butterflies."

Pending a quick settlement of the controversy, Senator Byrnes, Democrat, South Carolina; Representative McSwain, Democratic chairman of the house military affairs committee, both of whom hail from Hagood's home state of South Carolina, arranged a conference with Secretary of War Dern. This had no result.

SENATOR VANDENBERG of Michigan has formally declined to enter the Ohio Presidential primary, but does not bar himself from consideration for the Republican nomination. Writing to the Republican state committee of Ohio, in reply to an inquiry as to whether he would run, Vandenberg asserted his "sole interest" in the Republican convention was that it should make "the wisest possible decisions respecting both party leadership and party policy."

To conform to Ohio law, the Borah forces have found the required "second choice" in the person of Senator Bone of Washington, who pledged to Borah should the nomination of the latter be blocked in the convention. Mr. Vandenberg expressed the belief that Borah is the one member of the party most likely to receive the upstate New York vote," and he also holds the view that the Idahoan would be the strongest candidate in the agricultural states.

WHILE waiting for instructions as to what to do in the matter of taxation, the members of the house—and many others—directed their attention to the investigation of the activities of the Townsend pension plan promoters. Speaker Byrns appointed the probing committee of eight two avowed Townsendites —John H. Tolan, Democrat, and Samuel L. Collins, Republican, both from California.

The chairman is J. Jasper Bell of Missouri, Democrat, author of the resolution for the investigation. It was understood that Mr. Bell had already gathered a mass of information of substantial value. The house which the Townsend plan has become a huge racket, and politicians in congress have been getting rather nervous over the growth of the Townsend movement, and they now see it attacked; but some impartial observers call attention to the fact that this way the committee is going after it smacks of unconstitutional abridgement of the right to petition.

It was expected that one of the first questions to be considered by the committee would be the salaries received by Dr. Francis E. Townsend, author of the scheme, and R. E. Clements, former California real estate operator, co-founder and general manager.

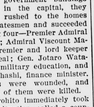
SENATOR NYE of North Dakota has determined that the war profits bill devised by his munitions committee shall be brought up for consideration at this session. Indeed he more than threatens a filibuster to bring this about, if necessary, to get the measure out of the hands of a finance committee which is headed by conservative Senator Connally of Texas, one of Nye's bitterest opponents.

The Nye bill provides for stiff taxes on earnings and virtual confiscation of incomes above $10,000 a year in time of war. In addition it would empower the President to commandeer industrial leaders to maintain production of essential war supplies.

UNEXPECTEDLY revolting against administration direction, the house voted down, 172 to 164, the bill to exempt from state and local taxation bank stocks held by the Reconstruction corporation. A similar measure passed the senate 38 to 28 the day before. The defeat was surprising because the measure had been unanimously supported by Republicans and Democrats on the house banking committee. Democratic leaders expressed the belief that the measure would not be revived.

The legislation was written after the Supreme court held in a Kansas land bank case that the stocks held by RFC were subject to taxation.

Emperor Hirohito


Gen. Hagood

J. Jasper Bell

GOV. EUGENE TALMADGE is virtually finishing dictator of Georgia, because the general assembly did not enact an appropriation bill, but he is having his troubles finding funds to carry on. He declared there was a plan hatched in Washington" to hamper him, and ousted State Treasurer George Hamilton and Controller General William Harrison for refusal to honor treasury warrants. Hamilton removed all the money from the treasury vault to a bank. Three state departments provided funds for temporary operation of fiscal affairs.

Then depository banks, the United States post office and the state's attorney general took a hand. Mail addressed to the suspended officers was impounded, cutting off the flow of tax remittances; all but one of the depository banks refused to honor state checks pending a court decision on the legal status of de facto officials; and Attorney General M. J. Yeomans, once cited by Talmadge as an authority for his actions, declared his position had been misinterpreted.

DEATH took from the scene two men prominent in national life—Albert Cabell Ritchie, governor of Maryland for four terms, and Henry Lerombe Doherty.

Although he was assistant secretary of the navy and distant cousin of the president, Mr. Ritchie was a leader among conservative Democrats, from the start a determined foe of national prohibition, and in 1932 a candidate for the Presidential nomination by his party. Though beaten out by F. D. Roosevelt, he had the satisfaction of seeing his repeal plank put into the Democratic platform. Of late he had been an outspoken critic of the New Deal policies, for he was a champion of state rights.

Henry L. Doherty was the fifth member of his family to serve as assistant secretary of the navy, and in recent months he had played an increasingly important part in the affairs of the department, acting as secretary during the illness of Secretary Swanson. He was a member of the naval academy class of 1909, but left before graduation to become a second lieutenant in the marine corps, in which service he rose to the rank of colonel.

POLITICAL conditions in Puerto Rico, notoriously unsatisfactory, may be rectified as a result of the assassination in San Juan of E. Francis Riggs, chief of the insular police, and a district police chief. Riggs, a former United States army colonel, was shot by two Nationalists; two hours later a police Chief Lieutenant Velez of N. Ortiz attempted to put down a Nationalist riot at Ponce and was killed.

Gov. Blanton Winship announced that a full inquiry into the incidents would be energetically pushed. Deploring the slaying of Riggs as "dastardly," he asserted a revival of capital punishment and a ban against carrying of firearms, being urged upon the legislature, would prevent such crimes.

The assassins of Riggs were caught and admitted the killing, saying it was in revenge for the Rio Pedras "massacre" in which police killed four Nationalists last November. Versos being questioned, the murderers, the police said, reached for guns and were shot to death.

DEVELOPMENTS in Washington lead to the belief that the Copeland-Shipstead anti-utility bill has been doned. Word came from the White House that President Roosevelt is not committed to the principles of the measure, although he initiated the principles of the measure, although he initiated the principles of the measure, although he initiated